

PARISH INFORMATION & SCHEDULES

Office Phone 510-792-1962 - Office Hours:

Monday through Friday: 9:00am to 12noon

Sundays: 9:30am to 11:30am.

Mass Schedule

Monday-Saturday Mass: 8:30am

Saturday Evening: 5:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am,
12:00noon

Bible Study

Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Rectory.

Registration in the Parish

Warmest welcome to all who worship in our Community.

Please complete a registration form available online.

(Parish Info)

St. Vincent de Paul

If you or someone you know is in need, please consider calling 510-796-5494.

Knights of Columbus

For information, please contact: Juan "Jappy" Francisco (415) 269-5973.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office when a parishioner is home-bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.

Marriages and Baptisms

Please leave a message at the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for Baptisms.

Baptisms

Please call to **make an appointment** with Fr. Antony. For details, please go to the Church website (Parish Info) or contact Jappy/Jan Francisco (415) 269-5973.

Baptism Preparation/Training class: Last Friday day of the month from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm in the Small Chapel.

Baptism Celebration: Last Saturday of the month 11:30am in the church

Faith Formation

For questions or help with registration, please contact Sheila Remolar Reduta at (650) 743-5728 or sjtafaithformation@gmail.com

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Please contact FrancesAnn McKenney at 510-648-4876 or contact the parish office at 510-792-1962.

Funerals

We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services / Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services. You may contact Bill Russell at (510) 901-2191.

Mother Teresa Center Reservations.

Call the office 510-792-1962 or email MTC@sjapostle.net. (No prices or quotes are given over the phone or in an e-mail.)



ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE CHURCH

34700 Fremont Blvd • Fremont, CA 94555

510-792-1962 • www.sjapostle.net

office@sjapostle.net

Fr. Antony Vazhappilly, Pastor

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

22th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH CALENDAR

Sept 28

Dinner Dance

Dec 8

Parish Christmas Party

Monthly Meetings:

Knights of Columbus Officer's Meeting

First Monday 7:30pm

Knights of Columbus Business Meeting

3rd Monday 7:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul

2nd Monday 7:00 pm

Bishop Begin Assembly 3546

Business Meeting, 4th Thursday 7:30pm

Pastoral Council

4th Tuesday 7:00pm

Monthly Devotions:

First Friday begins at 8:30am Mass, adoration during the day, 6:30pm Rosary, 7:30pm Mass

KofC Novena Prayer for the Unborn 4th Sunday after 10am Mass

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 7:1-8, 14-15-21-23) THE PEOPLE HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS

Jews practiced many laws regarding washing,
Faithfully, they observed them never failing
These rules include washing of hands before meals,
Purification of cups, jugs, kettles, and beds.

Never, did they eat without washing their hands,
On washing hands alone they had several laws-
Whether to clean just fingers or up to elbows,
Followed them scrupulously without any flaws.

Sabbath, they kept holy and abstained from work,
Lifted no finger even to help their sick.
They kept the laws but sadly missed their spirit,
Before God, they forgot, these had no merit.

They would keep the laws and neglected good works,
Mercy and compassion didn't match with their deeds.
They kept well the tradition not knowing why,
Keeping to the laws, they even chose to die.

Experts on the laws they had them in thousands,
Spiritually blind, they failed in commandments.
Living by the laws, they forgot to live real life,
In judgments, their tongues were sharper than a knife.

God wants mercy and not observance of law,
Our good life of charity will always glow.
Life enriched only in words will be empty,
Good works will take us to the Eternal City.

Questions:

1. Which stanza of this poem reminds you of your own experiences?
2. How can you reconcile your actions with God's laws?
3. How can you reconcile your spirit and with God's heart?

Reflections:

Imagine you gave a birthday party for your little daughter. Imagine that as she unwrapped each gift, she kept the wrapping paper and trashed the gift. This absurd example gives us an insight into what some Pharisees were doing. They were turning religion into something God never intended it to be. They were keeping the paper (God's laws) and trashing the gift (God's love). They would meticulously carry out the laws not knowing why they did what they did. They literally followed the law to its letter but totally ignored its spirit. They forgot that God is not the Lord of laws but God of

love and mercy. God wants mercy and not sacrifice. The Pharisees failed to show mercy to the poor and the needy. For them, the fulfillment of the law was the highest expression of their religion. God gave Moses the most important laws in the form of the Ten

Commandments. These commandments are very comprehensive, and it was enough that they kept them, which would have assured them a good life here on earth and in the next. Unfortunately, they made religion a list of things to do. They failed to realize that religion is a Person to be followed. It is not a set of laws to be kept, but a life of love to be lived. One of the main accusations that they leveled against Jesus and His followers was that they did not observe the law. The Pharisees always initiated quarrels with Jesus and His disciples for petty reasons. For example, the Pharisees complained that they did not wash their hands before eating, or that they would pick corn and eat them while walking through fields on the Sabbath. All the efforts by Jesus to explain to them that man is more important than the law did not sway them. They could not or would not comprehend His message. They would prefer to die of thirst by using rationed water for washing their hands instead of drinking. They would rather let an ox that fell into a well on the Sabbath die rather than save it. All of this they did just to keep the Sabbath holy. They were too blind to see that laws regarding washing of hands, utensils or other things did not have any religious significance but were only good practices having hygienic value!

Addressing the Pharisees, Jesus made this painful remark, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. In vain, do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts?" The best explanation of this remark is that they would say the right words but did not put their hearts into their worship. It was only lip service. There was a huge chasm between what they taught and what they practiced. In short, it was hypocrisy! In order to elucidate this, it's enough to look at the story of the sinful woman who they dragged in front of Jesus for judgment. In keeping with the law, they wanted to stone her since they had caught her in the act of adultery. That's what the law had prescribed. They did not want to show her any compassion or mercy. They chose to keep the law in preference to forgiveness or love. Jesus challenged them and their merciless law by inviting the first one among them without sin to cast the



MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY

(Continued from page 2)

first stone at the helpless woman. Who dropped the first stone? The oldest among them. He knew this woman more than others because he probably had frequented her more than anybody else. He was a hypocrite trying to hide his true self. His life did not match his words. They preached how good and great God is and what He can do for people, but they were not living their life the way they should have. They did not put into action what they preached to others.

Jesus has made it abundantly clear that you cannot serve God with words alone. Your words must match your life. It is easier to follow the Lord by fulfilling certain laws. Even prayers without good works will find no acceptance by God. Jesus has emphasized the fact that, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of my Father in heaven shall enter the kingdom of heaven." God's discipleship demands that we cannot serve Him without serving our brothers and sisters. The real test of our love for God is manifested in our service toward others. We need to share God's blessings with others who are less fortunate. What you have is a gift from God. The best way we use God's gift is by sharing it with others who are sick, poor, or in need. If we all share God's gifts with others, there will be no more poor people who are deprived of their basic needs. Nobody in the world would ever again die of starvation. The world would never again witness hunger or thirst. Your worshipping of God on Sundays and other days will be meaningless if your do not put into practice the message of the Gospels that you listen to during the Sunday liturgy.

The best offering we can bring to God is our Spirit-filled life infused with charity and generosity: that is what faith, hope, and love are truly about. You can remember this every time you recite those first 3 Hail Marys of the Rosary. Your offerings to God should come from the right heart and mind. You should bring them for the right reason and with the right attitude. God rejected the gift of Cain not because the fruits were broken or were smaller than the ones he kept for himself. He did not have the

right attitude of gratitude to recognize that God is the provider of all the produce of the land. God accepted the offering of Abel but it was not because he had given Him the youngest and fattest lamb. It was because his gift revealed his loving and grateful heart. God loves cheerful givers and not haughty grumblers who give to God spitefully or grudgingly.

God does not need your offerings of gifts. He only needs your loving heart that recognizes Him as your Father. In Matthew 5:23, Jesus makes this very clear: "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering." We can be God's children only by loving others no matter

who they are, what they are, or where they are from. Love is the characteristic of a child of God. The best sermons are preached by good lives and examples.

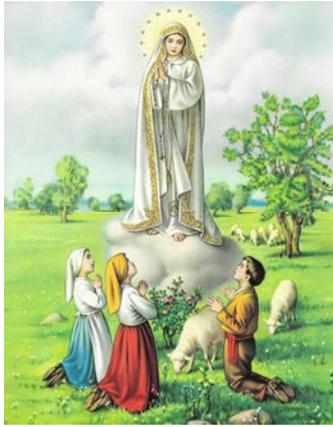
These words should help us to examine our lives and discover where we are today in relation to God and our neighbor. Read carefully once again the words of Jesus: "This people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines human precepts? Am I one of those who honors God with my words alone while my life is far from Him? Am I one who preaches all the good things about God, but my life is a contradiction to what I preach? Am I satisfied by doing a lot of things for God but fail to understand that real love of God is manifested not just by doing but in the spirit and heart? What kind of Catholic am I today? Lord, help me to realize that religion is not a list of things to do but a Person to be followed. It is not a set of laws to be followed, but a life of love to be lived.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

United Conference of
Catholic Bishops Website

<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>



**Next Fatima
Celebration
September 13**



**St. James Parishioners
You are invited
to have
Our Lady of Fatima
statue
in your home for two
weeks.**

Please sign up at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AEA62EA2F4C25-50112309-pilgrims#/>

If you have any questions, please call
Judi Domingo at **510-767-9548**



**ST JAMES RCIA IS STARTING
SOON!**

**RCIA MEETINGS RESUME ON
SUNDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2024.**

RCIA is open to adults and their families
who:

- Want to become Catholic;
- Want to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and/or First Holy Communion;
- Want to learn more about the Catholic faith (even those who have been Catholic all their lives);
- Want to sponsor or support RCIA participants.

Please come join us! We welcome you! RCIA or “Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults” is the program used to prepare adults to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. At St. James, we welcome anyone who would like to learn more about or share the Catholic faith.

Meetings are held weekly on Sunday mornings starting 8 September 2024 at 10:00 AM through Pentecost. Sacraments will be offered to those who are eligible at the Easter Vigil on 19 April 2025.

If you would like to know more, please contact: FrancesAnn McKenney, fammck@aol.com or call/text 510-648-4876. Or contact the St. James Parish Office. We look forward to seeing you!

First Friday September 6

Welcome, New Members!

We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive communication via email or regular mail. Registration information is essential for the office to respond to requests, send important parish and diocesan information and verify donations for tax purposes. If you need a letter of good standing to be a sponsor or Godparent for a baptism or marriage, registration is very important.

Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket and we will mail you a Parish Registration form. You can also find an online registration form on the website (sjapostle.net) FAQ

Name

Address

Phone

Email

YOU ARE INVITED TO



அன்னை வேளாங்கண்ணி திருவிழா

Come join in our celebration of the pinnacle of Annai
Velankanni! We happily invite you to celebrate this festival.

SATURDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2024 | 07.00PM - END

34700 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, CA

OLV Festival Flag Hoisting is on 31st Aug 2024 Saturday 7PM